

EUROPE: Despite light, scattered showers (5-21 mm) in major winter grain-producing areas of eastern England, the Netherlands, and southern Scandinavia, winter wheat and spring grain harvesting likely progressed with minimal delays. In western England, Belgium, northern Germany, and northwestern Poland, more widespread showers (13-41 mm, with locally higher amounts) hampered winter grain and oilseed harvesting, but helped filling summer crops. Elsewhere in northern and central Europe, variable showers (3-14 mm) fell from France eastward through southern Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary, causing brief, localized harvest delays. Winter wheat harvesting was reportedly nearing completion in central Europe. Farther south, dry weather in Spain and Portugal helped late winter wheat harvesting and maturing summer crops, but maintained irrigation requirements for filling corn, cotton, and rice. Light showers (3-13 mm) fell across parts of northern and central Italy early in the week, otherwise dry weather prevailed, aiding maturing summer crops. Similarly, isolated showers (3-21 mm) fell across the Balkans, Romania, Bulgaria, and northern Greece, having little impact on drought-stressed summer crops. Weekly temperatures averaged near normal in England and Scandinavia, and generally 2 to 6 degrees C above normal in central and southern Europe. The unseasonably warm weather benefited summer crops in northern and central Europe, where crop growth had been slowed by cool weather during July and early August. Hot weather (maximum temperatures between 35 and 43 degrees C) in the Iberian peninsula, Italy, and parts of southeastern Europe increased evaporative losses and stressed immature summer crops.